

What is claimed is:

1. An exhaust gas purifying apparatus for an internal combustion engine for purifying exhaust gases discharged from said internal combustion engine, and temporarily adsorbing hydrocarbons within exhaust gases upon start of said internal combustion engine, said exhaust gas purifying apparatus comprising:

a catalyzer disposed in an exhaust system of said internal combustion engine for purifying exhaust gases;

an adsorbent filled in a second passage in said exhaust system for adsorbing hydrocarbons within exhaust gases, said second passage circumventing a first passage;

a switching valve operable to switch between an open position for opening said first passage and a close position for closing said first passage;

atmospheric pressure state detecting means for detecting an atmospheric pressure state; and

switching valve driving means for driving said switching valve to said close position upon start of said internal combustion engine, and for driving said switching valve to said open position in accordance with the detected atmospheric pressure state.

2. An exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

start-time temperature state detecting means for detecting a temperature state of said exhaust system upon start of said internal combustion engine; and

post-start exhaust gas calory calculating means for

calculating the calorific value of exhaust gases discharged after the start of said internal combustion engine,

wherein said switching valve driving means drives said switching valve to said open position in accordance further with the detected start-time temperature state of said exhaust system, and the calculated post-start exhaust gas calorific value.

3. An exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said start-time temperature state detecting means includes:

stop-time temperature detecting means for detecting the temperature of said exhaust system at the preceding stop of said internal combustion engine; and

inoperative time measuring means for measuring an inoperative time from the preceding stop to the current start of said internal combustion engine,

wherein said start-time temperature state detecting means is configured to find the start-time temperature state of said exhaust system in accordance with the detected stop-time temperature of said exhaust system and the measured inoperative time.

4. An exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said start-time temperature state detecting means further includes:

an ambient temperature detecting means for detecting the ambient temperature around said internal combustion engine,

wherein said start-time temperature state detecting means is configured to find the start-time temperature state of said exhaust system in accordance further with the detected ambient

temperature.